# Information for NIH Applicants and Recipients of NIH Funding Related to COVID-19

Updated 07-17-2020

## Patient Care and Researcher Safety is the First Priority

* The NIH is deeply concerned for the health and safety of people involved in NIH research, and about the effects of the COVID-19 public health emergency on the biomedical enterprise.
* NIH is providing many administrative flexibilities to help the research continue.

## Stay Up to Date

* This is a rapidly evolving situation.
* Information provided is current as of July 17, 2020.
* Latest information may be found at <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/natural-disasters/corona-virus.htm>

## NIH is Open for Business

* Extramural staff are working remotely
* We continue to process applications and make awards
* We are conducting peer review meetings virtually
* We are working diligently to provide funding opportunities to support COVID-19 research

## COVID-19 Funding Opportunities and Other Information for Applicants and Recipients

* Funding through competing supplements, administrative supplements, new awards
* Many opportunities listed on [Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Information for NIH Applicants and Recipients of NIH Funding](https://grants.nih.gov/policy/natural-disasters/corona-virus.htm) website

## Donating Research Supplies

* As long as recipients are not repurposing NIH grant projects in order to donate PPE and other lab supplies to hospitals, medical centers, and other local entities, they may do so without prior approval to serve the public health emergency crisis for COVID-19 response.
* Reach out to your NIH program officer and grants management staff with specific questions.
* Learn more: FAQs [grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm](https://grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm)

## Application Deadlines

* Some NIH Institutes have extended deadlines for select FOAs
* For all other FOAs NIH is taking a very flexible stance for applications submitted within the [standard two week late policy](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-15-039.html)
* Late application policy notices are listed on the [Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Information for NIH Applicants and Recipients of NIH Funding](https://grants.nih.gov/policy/natural-disasters/corona-virus.htm) website

## Post Submission Materials

NIH has implemented a special exception to allow preliminary data as post submission materials beginning with due dates/on/after May 25,2020:

* Preliminary data must be submitted 30 days before the study section meeting
* AOR concurrence required
* One page of preliminary data will be accepted for single component applications or for each component of a multi-component application
* Funding opportunity must allow preliminary data (i.e. does not explicitly indicate preliminary data is not allowed)
* Post-submission materials will not be accepted for applications for emergency competitive revisions and urgent competitive revisions which undergo expedited review
* Learn more: [NOT-OD-20-123](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-123.html)

## Salaries and Stipends

* Recipients must exhaust other available funding sources to sustain its workforce and implement necessary steps to save operational costs to preserve Federal funds for grant supported activities
* Recipients may charge salaries and stipends to grant projects on a cases by case basis
  + Upon documenting the efforts to exhaust all other available funding sources
  + Only if organization’s policy allows such charges from all funding sources, federal and non-federal
* Per OMB Memo M-20-26, this flexibility remains available through September 30, 2020
* Learn more: [NIH Implementation of OMB Memo M-20-26](https://grants.nih.gov/policy/natural-disasters/corona-virus/nih-omb-memo.htm) and FAQs at [grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm](https://grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm)

## Guidance on Human Subjects Research affected by COVID-19

* Ensure the safety of all human participants and research staff involved in clinical trials and human subjects’ studies.
* Consult with IRBs and institutions about protective measures, such as:
* Limiting study visits to those needed for participant safety or coincident with clinical care.
* Conducting virtual study visits
* Implementing flexibilities for required laboratory tests or imaging needed for safety monitoring
* NIH will be flexible regarding project extensions and accommodating unanticipated costs
* Learn more: [NOT-OD-20-087](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-087.html) and FAQs at [grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm](https://grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm)

## Guidance for IACUCs

* Facility inspections may be extended by 30 days beyond the six-month interval
* IACUC can determine the best means of conducting the facility inspections, to include ad hoc consultants
* IACUCs may institute virtual meetings
* The number of IACUC meetings may be reduced to as few as one every six months
* The IACUC may choose to expand their use of designated member review
* Learn more:  [NOT-OD-20-088](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-088.html) and [olaw.nih.gov/covid-19.htm](https://olaw.nih.gov/covid-19.htm)

## Administrative Flexibilities

* OMB previously authorized agencies to utilize administrative flexibilities for recipients conducting COVID-19 research and recipients affected by COVID-19
* For recipients affected by COVID-19, many of these flexibilities have ended, effective June 16, 2020
* Requests for the following flexibilities going forward may be considered by ICs on a case by case basis:
  + Prior approval requests for delayed report submission
  + Second/third no-cost extensions
  + Carry over requests
* We continue to provide maximum flexibility in approving these requests.
  + Note that standard policies for allowable pre-award costs continue to apply
* For recipients of NIH emergency COVID-19 supplemental appropriations, the flexibilities outlined in OMB Memo M-20-11 remain available for those awards through the end of the public health emergency.
* Learn more: [NIH Implementation of OMB Memo M-20-26](https://grants.nih.gov/policy/natural-disasters/corona-virus/nih-omb-memo.htm) and FAQs at [grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm](https://grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm)

## Accommodations for Loss of Time for Investigators Early in their Careers

* Extensions for early stage investigator eligibility due to COVID-19-related disruptions will be considered
* NIH will be flexible with extending time constraints for fellowship, career development and training awards, including phased awards
* Learn more: FAQs at [grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm](https://grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm)

## Final Advice

* For general questions regarding these flexibilities contact the NIH Office of Extramural Research at [grantspolicy@nih.gov](mailto:grantspolicy@nih.gov)
* For questions specific to your NIH award contact the grants management and program staff of the funding institute or center.
* Monitor [Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Information for NIH Applicants and Recipients of NIH Funding](https://grants.nih.gov/policy/natural-disasters/corona-virus.htm) website for new information